

Press-Herald

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The Public and Educators

In the course of his announcement Thursday that he was quitting as president of the troubled San Francisco State College, John Summerskill had some sharp words for the status of higher education and educators in California.

"The public trust in competent educators is being undermined because the present administration in Sacramento has failed to give higher education the constructive leadership it requires and deserves from that quarter," he charged.

It may be presumptuous of us, mere mortals, to comment but we believe the public trust in competent educators is being undermined by those "competent educators" who permit, even abet, a rabid minority of students in the state to subvert the facilities of our great universities to their own disruptive designs.

Despite earlier criticism during trouble on the San Francisco campus, most agree that President Summerskill conducted his office well during the December campus riots. His departure from San Francisco State might well be charged off to "the system."

"The System," in this case, is the dual standard of conduct which has been fostered on our California campuses, and the administrators and educators must shoulder most of the blame for the situation . . . they can't put it down to "politics."

A dual system of conduct prevails when our college students battle vociferously for the right of free speech on behalf of such as H. Rap Brown, Dr. Timothy Leary, or Dr. Spock when one of them wants to appear on campus.

These same students are the ones who would deny the right of an Air Force or Navy recruiting team to appear on the campus. They are the same students who have been physically violent toward recruiting efforts of industry, particularly the Dow Chemical Co., merely because the company has a government contract to produce war material.

When the alarmed educators want to point the finger of blame for the lack of public trust, they should point it at the small minority of students and to the members of the faculties who advocate dissension and disruption as a way of life. Until the colleges and universities clean out their own sores, they can expect increasing distrust from the public.

It's time the majority exerted its will again.

What an Anniversary!

Today is an anniversary which few people, if any, will celebrate by baking a cake!

On Feb. 25, 1913, the federal government was authorized to levy an income tax. Congressional leaders felt at the time that rates could never reach 10 per cent and, indeed, the first year of tax brought the government only \$80 million, or a per capita bite of 82 cents.

By contrast, in 1966 revenue from corporate and individual income taxes totaled \$85.5 billion, and the per capita yield was \$434. While the per capita disposable income in 1966 was \$2,584, or 7.2 times the \$358 of 1913, the per capita tax payments were 529 times the 82 cents of 1913.

In 1913, a single man earning \$5,000 a year paid a \$20 tax; in 1966 he paid \$671. In 1966 the rates ranged from 14 to 70 per cent, a far cry from Congressional predictions back in 1913.

Of Mr. Taxpayer's total tax bill in 1913, 70.5 per cent went for state and local government and 29.5 per cent for the federal government. In 1966, 66.5 per cent to federal, 17.9 to state and 15.6 to local.

In 1913, people did locally what they wanted done. Today, they give their billions in tax money to the federal government and fight among themselves to see who can get the most back.

Opinions of Others

When financial hotshots of the U.S. government were questioned by a congressional committee . . . it developed they could be off as much as \$8 billion in their estimates of how much the administration is actually cutting the federal budget in the big hassle over taxes and economy. This has to be definitely comforting to those of us who have sweat it out for hours trying to track down a 36-cent discrepancy in balancing our bankbook.—*Waltham (Mass.) News-Tribune.*

One expert recently stated that you "shouldn't judge a modern girl by her clothes" and he's right too—there just isn't enough evidence.—*Sullivan (Ill.) Progress.*

Morning Report:

No doubt that New York—the first city in the land—points the way for the rest of the nation. Like in garbage. The tin cans, meat bones, and potato peelings were still on Gotham's sidewalks when the garbage collectors in Memphis, down in Tennessee, went on strike.

This is how culture spreads in America. New trends usually start in the East and move West. Some innovations of course travel faster than others.

A new art form may take a year or more to make its way across the continent. But a new way to make more money zooms. It never falters at the Mississippi or gets delayed in Chicago. We Americans are sanitation mad and live in frenzied fear of a germ. Garbage-men of America unite. You can have Fort Knox if you strike for it.

Abe Mellinkoff

Strange Way To Stamp Out Crime



AFFAIRS OF STATE

Business Inventory Tax Comes Under Fire Again

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Once again, a legislative effort will be made to eliminate the business inventory tax as a part of the California revenue structure.

Assemblyman Walter Karabian, D-Los Angeles, has introduced a measure to repeal the tax, which requires payment on the amount of business inventories as of March 1.

The tax, says the assemblyman, constitutes "the most glaring economic liability to our state."

It applies, he said, unequally to different firms, and the burden of the tax is distributed not according to the ability to pay, but simply by the nature of the business involved.

"The flexibility of inventory," said Karabian, "determines the burden a firm must bear, and thus, the burden is not a function of sales, or even of lack of sales."

"As an example, some businesses must keep an inventory of thousands of different items on hand. Another firm may sell only a few types of items, and thus

could draw down its inventory to almost nothing at the approach of the March 1 lien date."

Major stumbling block in repealing the tax, Karabian pointed out, would be the opposition by the Los Angeles county board of supervisors. He said Los Angeles

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County is the direct recipient of \$250 million annual revenue from the tax.

If the repeal effort is unsuccessful, Karabian said he at least hopes it can be reduced by 20 per cent, and pointed out that some \$39 million has been set aside in Governor Ronald Reagan's budget to relieve the burden on California business.

"The state board of equalization has made an independent study supporting the figures being used by the legislature, and not the ballooned figures which the Los Angeles county board of supervisors has been using to maintain the tax."

"The time has come to give the thousands of Cali-

fornia businessmen an opportunity to compete with out-of-state businesses," he said. Karabian pointed out that several states, including New York and New Jersey, do not use this form of taxation, and thus a situation is created whereby competition is unfair.

In addition, a practice has grown in business over the years which provides some firms as a means of escape from the tax, which contributes to its inequality.

This practice is for business to move stock out of the premises on the lien date, and even out of the state, which contributes to the warehouse business of neighboring states, but deprives California of revenue.

Outstanding business organizations like the California Retailers Association, and the California Manufacturers Association, have campaigned for many years to eliminate the unequal tax, but so far have had no success.

However, the campaign grows stronger each year as the public becomes more aware of the disadvantages and unfairness of the tax.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

'Matador' May Become Boxer for Film Version

Hooray for Hollywood: It's reassuring to find that the film capital — "cinemecca," in columnese—can still be as silly as it was in the days when Darryl Zanuck could buy "Huckleberry Finn" for a million and turn it into a musical for Danny Kaye and Gene Kelly, with Huck and Tom appearing briefly in cameo roles . . . The latest madness concerns author Barnaby Conrad's old bullfighting best-seller, "Matador," which producer Ray Stark has optioned for — yes — a musical. We turn now to a Hollywood columnist, quoting Harry Lee Bowers, who'll write the screenplay: "I'm getting \$50,000 for the adaptation, but the money doesn't matter. What I'm doing matters. I'm taking 'Matador' out of Spain and giving it a U.S. background. I'm doing the first honest film about bullfighting — only the hero may have to be a prizefighter. But that won't make any difference." Adds the columnist: "Bowers sees it as a splendid vehicle for Sidney Poitier." Could anything be more beautiful?

in the fiction dept., the S.F. Bay Area scores pretty well, thanks to one man. That would be Novelist Erskine Caldwell, who lives in a modest two-room house across the Bay in Rheem Valley, dividing his time between his typewriter and his pool table in the next room. He has three books among the 25 all-time best

—are serious about opening a branch here in S.F. They have keyed a San Francisco board of directors, and a motley super-throng it is: Atty. Rubin Glickman, Willie Mays, John Brodie, Cyril Magnin, Jeremy Ets-Hokin, the Fillmore's Bill Graham, Banker Jake Shemano, Model Mimi London, and maybe even Broker Al Schwabacher, Jr., although somehow I can't see Al in a Mao jacket . . . Glickman, the chairman, reports, "We are looking at a site South of Market. It's a big old barn on the outside, but we'll spend a lot of money fixing up the inside."

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

sellers: "God's Little Acre," which has sold 8 million; "Tragic Ground," 4.6 million copies, and "Journeyman," 3.9 million. Also in the first 25 is "The Ugly American"—a title that has become part of the language — by the late Eugene Burdick of Berkeley and Bill Lederer of Carmel. The No. 1 all-time fiction best-seller, as you've already guessed, is "Peyton Place," with almost 10 million copies in print. No Hemingway, no Faulkner, no Fitzgerald — but that's no surprise.

In one ear: It took a little digging, but I finally uncovered a scandal in the new Alioto administration: the Mayor's favorite overcoat is, according to its label, a DOBBS! Defeating poor-Harold Dobbs was one thing, but stealing his benny is quite another . . . Ethel Mer-

man, squired by Matt Kelly, got into a cab outside the Clift Hotel the other day, and the cabbie couldn't get over his luck. "What a week!" he enthused. "Yesterday a lady had a baby in my back seat, and now I get YOU, Miss Merman." "Now that," said Ethel, "is one act I can't follow" . . . My friend Jim Bacon, who writes the best column in H'wood, reports he's back on the wagon after seeing the handwriting on the floor.

"I'm beginning to believe that the big H'wood names behind The Factory—L.A.'s hottest private discotheque

Add Infinitems: Enrico Banducci has nailed down Bill Cosby as the opening attraction for his new hungry I in Ghirardelli Square, come the blessed Springtime. News to me: That Cosby is the biggest seller on the Reprise label, far outdistancing Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Trini Lopez. And he can't even sing . . . Steve McQueen checked into his Cow Hollow penthouse the other day to prepare for "Bullitt," to be filmed here under the direction of England's Peter Yates. Also in the film: Robert Vaughn, who is going from here to Vietnam. He is against the war but doesn't expect one visit to change his mind.

I'm not against topless joints (just bored) but for once I agree with the tourists: the sidewalk barkers outside these traps are an unnecessary affront—besides, I suspect, being bad for business. Why make the sucker KNOW he's being played for a sucker? . . . You make something out of it since I can't dept.: The most popular cigarette-rolling machine is called the TOP, and isn't that POT spelled backwards? By golly . . . Sudden thought: Those new FDR six-cent stamps must have been designed by a Republican.

☆☆☆

Newspaper stuff: New casualties on the San Francisco newspaper strike front—this time in the typewriter brigade. Two of The Examiner's few big-name reporters won't be back when the papers resume publishing: Clint Mosher, a Page One byliner for 22 years, is retiring, while Ed Montgomery, the Ex's chief digger for dirt, is taking a job outside the newspaper business. And who can blame him? Mosher quote: "I can't stand the uncertainty any longer. So this strike is settled—a couple of months later, another union contract expires and we sweat the whole thing all over again. It's crazy."

Facts on fiction: There's a new book out called "70 Years of Best Sellers," and

ROYCE BRIER

Spy Ship Affair Is Like Raiding the Cookie Jar

Sometimes you wonder how, when they were very young, Lyndon Johnson and Dean Rusk met the situation when caught raiding the cookie jar.

There is nothing really scandalous about the situation. Imprudence is a universal human trait, and it gives you a glow when it succeeds. But when it fails, it is a test of character. It is also a test of good sense: is it not better to confess a sin immediately than to suffer the later embarrassment of renouncing your denial of sin?

It is when the cookie jar principle is introduced into large affairs that it becomes puzzling to those who expect different behavior. Although we ourselves sin, we expect our public officers to be reasonably honest in dealing with us and with the world.

But we haven't seen much of this reasonable honesty in public affairs lately. Perhaps it is the pressure of our time, which puts a premium on cunning equivocation. Washington and Lincoln were reasonably honest in dealing with their people and the world. But as everybody knows, they were not under pressure. They lived in a simple human society, where precepts stemming from the cookie jar (or cherry tree) days were honored.

Well, there was that spy ship Pueblo, a real cookie jar raid. It wasn't very intelligent to send her where she was sent. It was mostly an exercise in smart alecism and even if she succeeded, the profit was negligible. So she was grabbed by the North Koreans, a gang of petty hickbinders, as we

should have known after 15 years of associating with them.

So we were very indignant about it all. To make our bumbling seem intelligent, not to mention ethical, we said everybody else does it. Besides, we said positively—Mr. Johnson and Mr. Rusk and all the lesser spokesmen did — that the vessel was on the high seas,

Opinions on Affairs of the World

and we wanted her and the 83 men back, and an apology for such stark piracy.

Now the North Koreans and many other nations maintain a tough 12-mile limit, and we said Pueblo was almost 14 miles offshore, or anywhere up to 25 miles, when sighted and hailed.

We said we weren't sure, because radio details of the incident were fragmentary. But we had a fix on Pueblo's position when boarded of much over 12 miles, and so indeed did the North Koreans.

The X factor was that two hours elapsed between hailing and boarding. But we stuck with our high seas story through days of diplomatic uproar. Then sud-

The Old Timer
A computer can get more work done faster than a human because it doesn't have to waste time answering the telephone.

denly on a television program Feb. 4, Mr. Rusk conceded it was "possible" Pueblo was at some time within the 12-mile limit.

Didn't our people know of this possibility all along, given the circumstances? Don't be silly. But when your hand is in the cookie jar, you say the first thing that comes to mind. All kids do.

The melancholy part is that our public officers have been pulling the cookie jar bit for years. President Eisenhower was made an involuntary liar in the Russian spy plane affair. Time and again Ambassador to the U. N. Adlai Stevenson was made a liar, and now Ambassador Goldberg is made a "possible" liar before the world's nations.

Is that any way to run a historical railroad? You bet it isn't!

Alan Grey Says . . .

New York's Mayor Lindsay . . . Thought Rocky rather brash . . . When seeking State control . . . Of men collecting trash . . . This put the local union . . . In a very nice position . . . They merely have to sit and choose . . . The better proposition . . . This is one example . . . Of many we could mention . . . How problems can be magnified . . . By government intervention.